

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of nucleic acid transfer comprising the following steps (a) and (b):

(a) contacting a nucleic acid with a cell in a medium; and

(b) following the step (a), ~~contacting~~ adding the medium of (a) with a volume of a high-concentration solution of calcium chloride into the medium of (a), wherein the final concentration of calcium chloride in the medium of step (b) is within the range of 7.1mM- 30.1mM ~~a metal salt.~~

2. (Original) The method of nucleic acid transfer according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is a single-stranded DNA, a double-stranded DNA, a single-stranded RNA, a double-stranded RNA, an oligonucleotide or a ribozyme.

3. (Original) The method of nucleic acid transfer according to claim 2, wherein the double-stranded DNA or the double-stranded RNA is in the linear or cyclic form.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The method of nucleic acid transfer according to claim 2, wherein the oligonucleotide is a deoxyribonucleotide, a ribonucleotide, a phosphorothioate oligodeoxynucleotide, a 2'-O-(2-methoxy)ethyl-modified nucleic acid (2'-MOE-modified nucleic acid), a small interfering RNA (siRNA), ~~a cross-linked nucleic acid (locked nucleic acid;~~ (LNA), a peptide nucleic acid (PNA) or a morpholino antisense nucleic acid.

6. (Previously presented) The method of nucleic acid transfer according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is in the form of a complex or an inclusion body with a biodegradable substance or a living body-derived substance.

7. (Original) The method of nucleic acid transfer according to claim 6, wherein the living body-derived substance is atelocollagen.

8. (Currently amended) The method of nucleic acid transfer according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the high-concentration solution of ~~a metal salt~~ calcium chloride to be contacted with the medium obtained in the step (a) is within the range of 0.1 M - 3.0 M.

9. (Currently amended) The method of nucleic acid transfer according to claim 8, wherein the concentration of the high-concentration solution of ~~a metal salt~~ calcium chloride to be contacted with the medium obtained in the step (a) is within the range of 0.5 M - 2.0 M.

10. (Currently amended) The method of nucleic acid transfer according to claim 1, wherein the volume of the high-concentration solution of ~~a metal salt~~ calcium chloride to be contacted with the medium obtained in the step (a) is within the range of 1 μ L - 20 μ L per 500 μ L of the medium of step (a).

11. (Currently amended) The method of nucleic acid transfer according to claim 10, wherein the volume of the high-concentration solution of ~~a metal salt~~ calcium chloride to be contacted with the medium obtained in the step (a) is within the range of 2 μ L - 10 μ L per 500 μ L of the medium of step (a).

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid transfer agent comprising a solid metal salt or a high-concentration solution of a metal salt as an ingredient.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid transfer agent according to claim 14, wherein the concentration of the high-concentration solution of a metal salt is within the range of 0.1 M - 6.0 M.

17. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid transfer agent according to claim 16, wherein the concentration of the high-concentration solution of a metal salt is within the range of 0.5 M - 4.0 M.

18. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid transfer agent according to claim 14, wherein the metal salt is a chloride of divalent metal.

19. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid transfer agent according to 18, wherein the chloride of a divalent metal is calcium chloride.

20. (Withdrawn) A kit for nucleic acid transfer which comprises a nucleic acid transfer agent set forth in claim 14.

21. (Canceled)